

Using the simple present tense

The **simple present tense** is used to talk about our habits, routines and general truths.

Form: **Subject + first form of the verb + object / adverb**

Examples

- She **sings** well.
- My brother **serves** in the army.
- I **work** at a bank.

Students often find it difficult to use the simple present tense correctly. Remember that in the simple present tense the verb takes the marker **–s** when the subject is a singular noun (e.g. Rahul, Maya, boy, bird, book) or a singular pronoun (e.g. he, she and it).

Notes

The pronoun **I** is singular but it does not take the marker **–s**.

- I **like** piping hot coffee. (NOT I likes piping hot coffee.)

The pronoun **you** can be singular or plural, but it doesn't take the marker **–s**.

- You **work** really hard. (NOT You works really hard.)

Formation of questions

The simple present tense does not use an auxiliary verb. Therefore, we use the auxiliaries **do** and **does** to form questions and negatives.

Form of questions in the simple present tense: **Do / does + subject + first form of the verb**

Use **do** when the subject is a plural noun (e.g. students, people, books, songs etc.) or a plural pronoun (e.g. we, they and you.)

- **Do** you work hard?
- **Do** they play tennis on Sundays?
- **Do** parents really love their children?

Use **does** when the subject is a singular noun (e.g. boy, girl, bird, tree etc.) or a singular pronoun (e.g. he, she, it). The pronoun **I** is an exception to this rule. It is singular in number but takes the verb **do**.

- **Does** she sing well? (NOT Does she sings well?)

- **Does** his mother work? (NOT Does his mother works?)
- **Does** he know the answer? (NOT Does he knows the answer?)
- **Does** it work? (NOT Does it works?)
- **Does** she love him?
- **Does** Peter work with you?

Formation of negatives

In the simple present tense, we make negatives by putting **do not** or **does not** before the verb. As you have already learned, **do** is used with plural nouns and pronouns. **Does** is used with singular nouns and pronouns.

- I **do not know** the answer.
- She **does not want** to come.
- He **does not work** hard.
- They **do not know** me well.
- You **do not sing** well.

Notes

In informal English, **do not** is written as **don't** and **does not** is written as **doesn't**.

Important note

When the main verb is a form of **be** (e.g. is, am and are), questions and negatives are made without **do** and **does**.

- I **am** a teacher.
- I **am not** a teacher.
- **Am I** a teacher?
- She **is** my friend.
- She **is not** my friend.
- **Is she** my friend?
- You **are** a stupid boy.
- You **are not** a stupid boy.
- **Are you** a stupid boy?

Use **is** with singular nouns and pronouns. Use **are** with plural nouns and pronouns. Use **am** with the first person pronoun **I**.

Simple present tense worksheet

Complete the following sentences using the present simple form of the verb. In the case of questions, use the indicated subject as well.

1. My mother usually (get) up at six o'clock.
2. My dad usually (drink) coffee in the morning.
3. My sister (sing) really well.
4. I (be) a medical student.
5. My grandmother (live) in Kerala.
6. My little daughter (adore) her dolls.
7. My son (draw) beautiful pictures.
8. Supriya (help) her mother in the kitchen.
9. Rohan (work) at a supermarket.
10. Rahul (earn) a six figure salary.
11. You (be) the most wonderful person I have ever met.
12. (you) know the answer?
13. (you) happy?
14. (I) getting the best support?
15. My sister (not eat) fish or meat.
16. (your mother) like your buddies?
17. (you) know how to swim?
18. How often (you) workout?
19. (you) have many friends?
20. They (be) from Switzerland.
21. Where (he live)?
21. Peter (visit) his grandparents once a month.

22. Jack (not live) with his parents.
23. Emily (make) delicious cakes.
24. (you play) cricket?
25. I (take) a shower before I go to bed.
26. (you understand) Hindi?
27. (he speak) Spanish?
28. She (not know) English.

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